

**Montana Transportation Commission**  
**Minutes**  
**August 11, 2008**

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The Montana Transportation Commission met via conference call on June 9, 2008 the meeting was called to order by Commissioner Espy at 10:05 am with the following participants:

Nancy Espy, Commissioner (District 4)  
Barb Skelton, Commissioner (District 5)  
Kevin Howlett, Commissioner (District 1)  
D. Winterburn, Commissioner (District 3)  
Rick Griffith, Commissioner (District 2)  
Lori Ryan, MDT  
Jim Lynch, Director  
Jim Currie, Deputy Director  
Sandy Straehl, MDT  
Kevin Christensen, MDT  
Suzy Price, MDT  
Loran Frazier, MDT  
Cary Hagerberg, MCA  
Jerry Bowers, MCA  
Mayre Flowers, Flathead Citizens Council  
Michael Kulbacki, FWHA

1) Awards: Loran Frazier presented information regarding the staff recommendations for the following projects:

Call Number	Project Number	Project Description	County Counties	District	Bid Amount	Contractor	City State zip_
1	NH 5-1(30)6	Evano - McClure Road	Missoula	Missoula	28,981,865.18	M A Deatley Construction Inc	Clarkston, WA 99403
2	BR 5205(16)	BNRR - River Dr - Great Falls	Cascade	Great Falls	4,269,635.69	Shumaker Trucking & Excavating Contractors Inc	Great Falls, MT 59403
3	HSIP 15(58)	2001 - Safety Imp - Columbia Falls - S	Flathead	Missoula	24,931.97	Kalispell Neon	Kalispell, MT 59903

Three (3) projects were advertised, in all, seventeen (10) bids were tendered. Staff recommends awarding projects to the respective low bidders.

Commissioner Howlett moved to adopt the staff recommendations to award projects to the respective low bidders. Commissioner Skelton seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye.

## 2) Interstate Off-Ramp Signal Project, Billings

Sandy Straehl presented the Johnson Lane I-90 Signal project in Billings:

MDT staff is requesting commission approval to develop and install a traffic signal project at the intersection of the eastbound I-90 off-ramp and Johnson Lane in Billings, and an “over-height load” warning system near the Interstate overpass at this location.

The traffic signal is intended to mitigate existing and projected future traffic at this location. Also, because trucks carrying over-height loads frequently collide with the Interstate overpass at this location and often cause significant damage, MDT proposes installing an over-height load warning system in advance of the structure.

The project will be funded with Interstate Maintenance (IM) funds. Total estimated project cost, including indirect costs, is \$285,150: consisting of \$22,812 for preliminary engineering, \$11,406 for incidental construction, \$228,120 for construction, and \$22,812 for construction engineering. The cost estimate includes \$35,150 in indirect costs.

The project team plans to have the project designed and ready for a November 2008 letting. This will allow the project to be tied to the Midland Road signal project on South Billings Boulevard, which is expected to result in a lower project cost. Construction of both the signal and over-height load warning system should begin in early 2009.

MDT requests approval to install a traffic signal and over-height load warning system at the intersection of the eastbound I-90 off-ramp and Johnson Lane. The estimated total cost of the project is \$285,150. It will be funded from the Billings District allocation of the Interstate Maintenance program.

Commissioner Winterburn moved to adopt the staff recommendation for approval to install a traffic signal and over-height load warning system at the intersection of the eastbound I-90 off-ramp and Johnson Lane. Commissioner Skelton seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye.

## Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Winterburn moved to adopt the staff recommendation for approval to install a traffic signal and over-height load warning system at the intersection of the eastbound I-90 off-ramp and Johnson Lane. Commissioner Skelton seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye.

Commissioner Howlett moved to amend and finalize the Palmer Street project awarded in July contingent upon the final agreement with the City of Missoula. Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye.

Commissioner Griffith motioned to give the department authority to award the emergency project for the Lima bridge repairs. Commissioner Howlett seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye.

Marye Flowers, Flathead Citizens Council requested information concerning the public comment process, state statute; Director Lynch and Tim Reardon will meet Ms. Flowers to explain the process and answer questions.

Cary Hagerberg and Jerry Bowers of the Montana Contractors Association stated that for the record that MCA has serious concerns about the about the departments Bid Letting procedure; Bid opening was breached, request of Commission to form a task force to review the process. Director Lynch stated that the Department will review the process and respond to MCA in writing. Commissioner Griffith stated that no bids should be withdrawn after the bid opening. Commissioner Howlett stated that there is not need for a task force, Commissioner Espy agreed. MCA, Cary Hagerberg will be placed on the September regular meeting agenda. MCA ask for assurance in writing on how things will be handled in the short term and stated that members are worried and have a lack of confidence in the department moving forward.

Regular Meeting – September 25, 2008  
Conference Call – September 8, 2008

Meeting adjourned by Commissioner Griffith, seconded by Commissioner Winterburn.

Nancy Espy, Chair  
Montana Transportation Commission

Jim Lynch, Director  
Montana Department of Transportation

Lori Ryan, Secretary  
Montana Transportation Commission